

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: April 14, 2016

Agenda Item: Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Paddlefish Grant Committee

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min

Background

Montana statute (MCA 87-4-601) allows anglers to donate roe (eggs) from legally taken paddlefish from the Yellowstone River (Glendive to North Dakota state line) to a Montana nonprofit corporation to process, market and sell as caviar. In 1990, the Commission selected the Glendive Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture (Chamber) as the nonprofit corporation, and the Department has renewed (authorized under ARM 12.7.1006) the Chamber's permit since. The revenue generated from the Paddlefish Roe Donation Program is divided between the Chamber (70%) and the Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (30%) pursuant to MCA 87-4-601 4(a). The Chamber's share funds the paddlefish grant program, which finances historical, cultural, and recreational projects. The Department's share benefits paddlefish management and research. Law (MCA 87-4-601) requires the Commission to annually appoint an advisory committee, called the Paddlefish Grant Committee (PGC), to solicit and review grant applications and fund projects. By statute, the PGC must consist of one member of the nonprofit organization, two area local government representatives, and two representatives of area anglers (see Chamber's recommendation letter). The committee is also required to notify the Commission of its actions. Grant funds were not issued by the PGC in 2015 due to the caviar being compromised by a mechanical failure of a thermostat that regulates the freezer temperature (see additional explanation in attached letter from the Chamber). The Chamber recommends that the Commission appoint the following individuals to the 2016 Paddlefish Grant Committee:

- Mike Roe—Glendive Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
- Kevin Dorwart—City of Glendive Director of Operations
- Tim Mort—West Glendive Fire Department chief and Dawson County fire warden
- Kevin McGovern—Reynolds Warehouse Grocery meat cutter in Glendive
- James Thielman—Thielman Oil Production Services, Inc. in Glendive

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public involvement consists of presenting this recommendation to the Commission in a public forum.

Alternatives and Analysis

The Commission could revoke the permit if the Chamber has violated the permit conditions or is unable to continue administering the program. The Commission could also ask for a new list of potential grant committee members. Either of these choices would delay implementation of the program in 2016.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

The Department is prepared to extend the Chamber's permit for 2016. The Department recommends that the Commission approve the advisory committee recommended by the Chamber.

Proposed Motion

I move that the Commission approve the advisory committee members recommended by the Glendive Chamber of Commerce.